Shri T. S. Ramaswamy : Has the Government taken any step to organise any co-operative society with adequate finances to do this work ?

Shri Panampilli Govinda Menon : There are in the State to-day two Central Co-operative Societies and already a sum of one lakh of rupees has been given to these two societies Rs. 75,000 to the Society at Trivandrum and Rs. 25,000 to the Society at Trichur in order to organise and improve the marketing of handloom goods.

Shri T. S. Ramaswamy : Is it a grant or a loan ?

Shri Panampilli Govinda Menon : It is a grant.

Titanium Factory

*14. [14] **Shri K. Bhanu :** Will the Minister for Finance and Civil Supplies be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Titanium Factory at Trivandrum will start working in the near future ; and

(*b*) was it running at a loss ?

Minister for Finance and Civil Supplies (**Shri Panampilli Govinda Menon**):

(*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

Shri K. Bhanu : May I know whether the Central Government will render financial assistance so that it may be opened in the near future ?

Shri Panampilli Govinda Menon : The Central Government has been requested by this firm for assistance and this Government have endorsed that request. The assistance asked for is, firstly, that the Industrial Finance Corporation should give them a loan and secondly, that protection should be given to the industry. The question of protection was gone into by the Tariff Board and it is understood that they have made certain recommendations to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has not passed orders on those recommendations.

WRITTEN ANSWERS

Conditions in Jails

*15. [15] **Shri K. Bhanu :** Will the Minister for Home Affairs be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the conditions in jails have been improved and if so, in what manner ?

(*b*) the food ration allowed for inmates in jails.

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